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**B-164031(1)**

**7-9-74**

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**COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES**  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-164031(1)

**RELEASED**  
**090274**

JUL 9 1974

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 The Honorable H. R. Gross  
 House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Gross:

Your letter of April 17, 1974, requested information about the National Institute of Education (NIE), Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and about certain of the Institute's activities. 470  
22

We obtained information concerning matters of interest to you through discussions with NIE officials and through a review of NIE records. On May 28, 1974, we briefed you on the results of our work, and as agreed at that time, we have summarized the information for your use.

CONFERENCES

NIE sponsors meetings, conferences, and seminars primarily as a means of (1) assessing and communicating the status of educational research, (2) bringing together consumers, researchers, and interested public for educational research, and (3) drawing a wide variety of disciplines and interests into the work of developing solutions to educational problems. These objectives are consistent with those set out by the Congress in establishing NIE.

By June 30, 1974, NIE will have sponsored a total of 34 conferences during fiscal year 1974. The total costs incurred will be about \$627,700. Additional information on each of the conferences is provided in enclosure I.

You expressed a particular interest in two conferences allegedly sponsored by NIE--one held in Chicago, in April 1974, and the other in the Washington area in March 1974. The Chicago conference was not sponsored by NIE. Although 47 NIE employees attended the Chicago conference, it was sponsored by the American Educational Research Association. NIE's total cost for this conference was \$8,750 including air fare of \$111.27 and an average per diem of \$75 for each of the attendees.

The Washington area conference, sponsored by NIE, consisted of a workshop on sex bias. Costs directly attributable to this conference totaled \$40,105. Additional costs totaling about \$27,000 were incurred for consultants who prepared staff papers which, according to NIE officials, would have been prepared anyway as a regular program activity. Contracts for these staff papers were made before the planning of the conference.

During the fiscal year six secretaries attended one conference which was held in Washington, D.C.

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PERSONNEL AND SALARY INFORMATION

As of March 31, 1974, NIE employed 385 people. The average employee salary at that time was \$18,638.

The following table shows the number of employees at each GS level or equivalent as of March 31, 1974.

<u>GS Level</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16+</u>	<u>Presidential Appointment</u>
<u>Employees</u>	1	5	12	29	34	44	10	29	27	26	54	65	38	9	2

CONSULTANTS

NIE hires four types of consultants. (See enc. II.)

Personnel appointments - These consultants are used for special assignments requiring close work with NIE staff and/or requiring close supervision by the staff. These consultants are limited to 130 workdays a year.

Field readers - These are consultants who review and comment on proposals submitted for Federal grants and contracts. They do not receive per diem or travel funds but are paid \$25 for each proposal they review.

Contracts with individuals - These consultants work independently of NIE staff. They usually deliver a specified product, work outside the Federal office building, and are paid for each job rather than a daily fee.

Review panelists - These are experts who, as part of NIE's supervisory committee, review and rank proposals together with NIE employees and other experts.

OFFICE PARTIES

NIE officials said that office parties were held from time to time when the Institute was housed in the Reporters Building at 7th & D Streets, S.W. According to these officials, alcoholic beverages were consumed on the premises but not paid for with Federal funds.

Since October 1973, when NIE moved to its present quarters at 19th & M Streets, N.W., only a Christmas party and an occasional birthday party have been held in the new offices. The Director said that he realized having parties in official quarters was inappropriate and that public restaurants and other non-Government establishments are now used for most social activities.

B-164031(1)

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We do not plan to distribute the report further unless you agree or publicly announce its contents.

Sincerely yours,

  
Comptroller General  
of the United States

Enclosures - 3

## ENCLOSURE I

## CONFERENCES SPONSORED BY NIE DURING FY 1974 (note a)

Conference date	Title of conference	Location	Number of attendees (note b)	Total cost
7/11/73	Early Education	Washington, D.C.	23	\$ 5,025
7/19/73	Puerto Rican Education	Washington, D.C.	20	2,202
8/73	Dissemination of NIE Sponsored Products	Arlington, Va.	2	3,675
8/13-24/73	Linguistic Communication	Cape Cod, Mass.	<sup>c</sup> 30	<sup>c</sup> 21,500
8/30-31/73	Career Education Model II	Denver, Colo.	26	<sup>d</sup> 1,987
9/6-7/73	Dissemination of NIE Sponsored Education Products	Princeton, N.J.	28	6,598
9/11-13/73	Office of Research and Exploratory Studies-Washington Conference	Washington, D.C.	8	2,012
10/18-19/73	Longitudinal Issues Meeting	Washington, D.C.	11	2,741
10/28/73	Linguistic Communication	New York, N.Y.	10	1,166
10/73	Black Education Professions and Lay Citizens	Urbana, Ill.	5	13,780
11/28-29/73	Early Learning	Washington, D.C.	27	4,547
12/-5/73	Second Quarterly Directors Conference	Dulles Airport, Va.	31	527
1/18-22/74	Essential Skills Orientation and Programming	Annapolis, Md.	<sup>c</sup> 13	<sup>c</sup> 4,415
2/1-3/74	Sociology of Education	Monterey, Calif.	41	<sup>d</sup> 15,392
2/4/74	Pre-Planning Conference	Cambridge, Mass.	<sup>c</sup> 14	<sup>c</sup> 3,754
2/5-8/74	Three Priority Conferences	Washington, D.C.	114	33,440
2/7-8/74				
2/13-14/74				
2/14/74	Open Learning Seminar	Washington, D.C.	20	4,762
3/74	Essential Skills Education (note e)	Washington, D.C.	225	<sup>e</sup> 327,758
3/5-8/74	Workshop on Sex Bias	Roslyn, Va.	63	40,104
3/74	Nationwide Conference on Competency Based Education	Houston, Tex.	3	4,000
3/6-8/74	Research Grants Panel Meeting	Washington, D.C.	117	9,939
3/7-9/74	U.S. Commission on Civil Rights	Pacific Grove, Calif.	9	2,058
3/74	Conference on Neural Mechanisms of Hearing, Memory and Storage	Berkeley, Calif.	3	59,750
4/15-16/74	Asian American Planning Meeting	Stanford, Calif.	<sup>c</sup> 15	<sup>c</sup> 6,665
4/18-19/74	Mexican-American Planning	Stanford, Calif.	<sup>c</sup> 20	<sup>c</sup> 8,559
4/22-23/74	White-American Planning	Washington, D.C.	15	5,080
5/2-3/74	Puerto Rican Planning	Washington, D.C.	26	6,794
5/8-9/74	Institutional Effects	Washington, D.C.	17	6,513
5/30-31/74	Black Scholars	New York, N.Y.	<sup>c</sup> 26	<sup>c</sup> 10,071
6/6-7/74	Indian Planning	Boston, Mass.	<sup>c</sup> 14	<sup>c</sup> 5,305
6/26-28/74	Freeing Sex Roles For New Careers	College Park, Md.	14	4,823
6/23-29/74	Conference on Neural Mechanisms	San Antonio, Tex.	50	1,725
Total				<u>\$626,667</u>

<sup>a</sup>Based on information provided by the Institute.

<sup>b</sup>Includes both Institute employees and others.

<sup>c</sup>Figures include estimates.

<sup>d</sup>Does not include travel costs, which were not available.

<sup>e</sup>A series of four conferences under this title are scheduled into FY 1975. Cost and attendance figures are based on estimates.

INFORMATION ON CONSULTANTS HIRED BY NIE FOR FY 1973

<u>Loca- tion of consultant</u>	<u>Contracts with individuals</u>	<u>Field readers</u>	<u>Review panelists</u>	<u>Personnel appointments</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ala.	-	1	1	-	2
Ark.	-	-	1	-	1
Calif.	14	3	2	9	28
Canada	-	-	-	1	1
Colo.	3	1	3	1	8
Conn.	1	-	5	-	6
D.C.	8	-	7	4	19
England	-	-	-	-	-
Fla.	5	-	-	1	6
Ga.	-	1	2	-	3
Ill.	11	2	13	5	31
Ind.	3	1	2	-	6
Iowa	-	-	-	-	-
Kans.	1	-	-	-	1
La.	-	-	1	-	1
Md.	4	1	2	3	10
Mass.	5	1	11	6	23
Mich.	3	1	4	2	10
Minn.	4	-	1	1	6
Miss.	-	-	-	-	-
Mont.	-	-	1	-	1
N. J.	2	1	3	3	9
N. Mex.	6	-	2	2	10
N. Y.	18	4	14	9	45
N. C.	-	-	3	3	6
Ohio	3	1	1	1	6
Oreg.	2	-	2	-	4
Pa.	4	1	4	5	14
Puerto Rico	1	-	-	-	1
R. I.	-	1	-	-	1
S. C.	1	-	-	-	1
Tenn.	-	1	-	-	1
Tex.	1	-	2	3	6
Utah	-	-	1	-	1
Virgin Islands	1	-	-	-	1
Va.	2	-	1	1	4
Wash.	-	-	-	-	-
West Indies	-	-	-	1	1
Wis.	1	-	3	2	6
Total	<u>104</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>280</u>
Cost per category	\$285,723	\$725	\$57,500	\$136,524	\$480,472

INFORMATION ON CONSULTANTS HIRED BY NIE FOR FY 1974

<u>Location of consultant</u>	<u>Contracts with individuals 7-1-73 to 12-31-73</u>	<u>Field readers 7-1-73 to 3-74</u>	<u>Personnel appointments</u>	<u>Office of research grants (note a)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Ala.	1	-	-	-	1
Ark.	-	-	-	1	1
Calif.	11	3	17	13	44
Canada	-	-	2	1	3
Colo.	-	-	3	1	4
Conn.	-	-	1	1	2
D. C.	3	1	7	10	21
England	-	-	1	-	1
Fla.	3	-	5	-	8
Ga.	-	-	-	2	2
Ill.	7	2	7	4	20
Ind.	-	-	1	1	2
Iowa	-	-	-	1	1
Kans.	-	-	-	-	-
La.	-	-	-	-	-
Md.	6	-	11	1	18
Mass.	4	2	11	8	25
Mich.	4	-	2	1	7
Minn.	2	-	3	-	5
Miss.	-	-	2	2	4
Mont.	-	-	1	-	1
N. J.	4	-	6	2	12
N. Mex.	2	-	2	1	5
N. Y.	4	-	19	7	30
N. C.	2	-	1	2	5
Ohio	3	1	1	-	5
Oreg.	2	-	2	2	6
Pa.	4	-	8	7	19
Puerto Rico	1	-	-	1	2
R. I.	-	-	-	-	-
S. C.	1	-	1	1	3
Tenn.	-	-	-	-	-
Tex.	1	-	1	2	4
Utah	-	-	-	-	-
Virgin Islands	1	-	-	1	2
Va.	2	2	7	-	11
Wash.	-	-	-	1	1
West Indies	-	-	-	4	4
Wis.	1	2	-	-	3
Total	<u>69</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>122</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>282</u>
Cost per category	\$77,723	\$1,850	\$108,728	\$40,500	\$228,801

a Office of Research Grants performed same function as Review panelists in FY 1973.

